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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT

The Roles of Generals Vincenz Müller and Von Paulus

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- General Vincenz Müller has been compromised by his collaboration with Wilhelm Zaisser, and his elimination from active duty is connected with the fact that Ulbricht finally succeeded in bringing about the formal expulsion of Zaisser and Herrnsstadt from the SED (Socialist Unity Party). Müller is said to be sick, but it was impossible to check on whether he is really suffering from cancer, as is rumored. It is unlikely that Vincenz Müller will soon return to active duty. Whether healthy or sick, he will have to keep in the background until the situation inside the SED (after the Party Congress to be held this coming spring) has been cleared up.
- At the moment, the situation in the SED is very tense, and Ulbricht pushed through the expulsion of Zaisser and Herrnsstadt on the eve of the Berlin Conference against some opposition from Semyonov. Ulbricht insisted that he could not keep the party firmly disciplined if Zaisser and Herrnsstadt were allowed to figure as an alternate team of leaders inside the party. Ulbricht demanded not only the expulsion of these two men, but also their indictment and, preferably their execution. This, however, has so far been refused, but remains a measure to be used in case of serious new troubles in Germany (Soviet Zone). In any case, the higher cadres of the SED are now prepared to carry out a much stricter Ulbricht course after the Berlin Conference.
- Field Marshal von Paulus has not been slated to replace General Müller. Paulus is undoubtedly sick, and in a very weak condition. In the event of the actual establishment of a German Red Army (to be distinguished from the existing People's Police), a team of younger and stronger men will be

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needed. There are a number of available candidates among those "free German" officers who have so far remained inside the Soviet orbit. The choice has not yet been made, and it is planned to make these appointments an impressive surprise.

4. Field Marshal von Paulus may then be given a merely decorative part in the top command, but this has not yet been definitely decided. Von Paulus can serve the German cause better by keeping away from the actual organizational problems of the German (Soviet Zone) Army. Then his appeals would carry greater weight with the German (Federal Republic) Officers' Corps to save the German Fatherland from destruction. The role assigned to von Paulus is to establish contacts through him between the Moscow government and the German Officers' Corps in the West.
5. A number of steps implementing this policy may be expected in the wake of the Berlin Conference, since one of Molotov's tactical aims is the creation of fear in Germany (Federal Republic) that it has now moved closer to becoming a prime objective of the Soviets in case of war.

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